Functioning of transmission centre Jorhat

1337. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the tramission centre, Jorhat has not been working well since its inception;

(b) whether it is a fact that the machineries installed in this centre are defective, old and worn-out; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to set things right in this centre?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) The Low Power TV transmitter at Jorhat has been functioning satisfactorily since it was commissioned into service in November, 1987. The transmitter equipment is also not old or worn-out. Nevertheless, there have been frequent interruptions in its transmission on account of failure of mains power supply provided by the state Government. The question of uninterrupted power supply to the transmitter has also been taken up with the State Govt. The Centre has now been provided a stand by diesel generator to minimise the interruption in service.

Special grant to Assam for agriculture

1338. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any provision for a special agriculture grant to the Government of Assam in view of the massive loss and damage to agriculture crops in Assam during the three successive floods of the current season; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Supply of foodstuffs to Assam

1339. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made provision for the provision for the supply of foodstuffs on an emergency basis for the flood affected districts of Assam; and

(b) if so, what is the quantum of foodstuff supplied so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra

1340. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision for increasing time by one hour for local programmes of Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra in response to request from the Government of Assam; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Community Television Sets in Maharashtra

1341. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Maharashtra have been equipped with Community

Television sets under the scheme sponsored by Government in order to create mass awareness of the family welfare programme;

(b) the number of villages which have been provided with Television sets so far;

(c) the number of additional Television sets likely to be provided by the end of the current financial year; and

(d) what is the criteria adopted for sanctioning of the Television sets?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) Eight hundred eighty nine (889) Community Viewing TV sets were provided by Doordarshan under a VI Plan scheme for installation in selected villages in the districts of Nagpur, Bhandara, Chandrapur and Gadhchiroli in Maharashtra. 251 TV sets were provided earlier during 1976 for the districts of Greater Bombay and Pune.

(c) and (d) The VII Plan of Doordarshan does not have any scheme for deployment of TV sets for community viewing except in North-Eatern region.

Foodgrain production

1342. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the foodgrains production in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) what was the expected downfall in production last year due to drought and what was the actual decline therein; and

(c) what are the projections in this regard for the year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) All India production of foodgrains during the last three years is as under:

Year	Production (Million tons.)
1985-86	150.4
1986-87	144.1
1987-88 (Provisional)	137.0

(b) The decline in production due to drought during 1987-88 over previous year is currently assessed at about 4.9 per cent, as compared to the earlier expected downfall in the range of 7 to 10 per cent.

(c) Since the crop year 1988-89 has just commenced, it is not possible to project the likely production of foodgrains. However, rainfall during the South-West Monsoon season so far (Ist June to 31st July) during the current year has been normal/excess in the entire country and prospects for foodgrains production are quite good.

Sale of spurious fertilizers

1343. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption "spurious fertilizers sale continues in Uttar Pradesh" which appeared in the Indian Express of the 20th July, 1988;

(b) whether the sale of spurious and substandard fertilizers is prevalent in all parts of the country;

(c) whether due to use of spurious fertilisers, the farmers are being cheated; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to unearth the manufacturing of spurious fertilizers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Some reports are received from time to time regarding sale of sub-standard fertilizers.